



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Olivier de Pous et al.) PATENT APPLICATION
Serial No.: 09/775,949) VAL1599P0190US
Filed: February 2, 2001) Group Art Unit: 3636
For: ATTACHMENT DEVICE TO) RECEIVED
ATTACH A PUMP OR VALVE) APR 19 2001
ONTO A RECIPIENT NECK)
Examiner: Not Yet Designated) TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner For Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the art identified on the attached form PTO/SB/08A and other matters discussed below may be helpful to the Patent Office in its examination of the application identified above.

A copy of each of the identified patent documents is enclosed herewith for the Examiner's consideration.

COMMENTS ON CITATIONS

The following comments are directed to the documents disclosed in the accompanying form PTO-1449. Non-English language documents without translation are discussed with a concise explanation pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(3)(i).

The Rapport De Recherche Préliminaire is the French Search Report for the French patent application FR 00.05877 filed May 5, 2000 of which priority is claimed in the above-captioned U.S. patent application. It is dated January 9, 2001. The Search Report cites as Category A documents two U.S. patents and one French patent.

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The French patent, FR 2 737 471 is in the French language and discloses a finger-actuated spray pump mounted in a bottle. The application No. FR 95 09363 which published as 2 737 471 serves as the priority application for the U.S. Patent No. 5,772,080, copy enclosed. The documents disclose a finger-actuated spray pump that is snap-fit into a fixing ring 10 which has downwardly depending bottom portion or legs 10a which effect a snap-fit engagement with the bottle flange 21. A gasket 7 is disposed between the fixing ring and the top of the bottle flange. An outer sleeve or hoop 50 is provided for being pushed down along the outside of the fixing ring 10 to surround the fixing ring 10a.

The order of listing of the art on the attached Form PTO-1449 should not be construed as an indication of the importance of the listed art.

The Patent and Trademark Office Examiner is requested to review the art and determine the extent of the materiality of the disclosures thereof with respect to the patentability of the subject invention. It is expected that the Patent and Trademark Office Examiner will independently conduct a complete search for relevant prior art.

No inference should be drawn and no representation is made or intended: (a) that a search has been made, or if made, was complete; (b) that the art on the attached list presents a comprehensive investigation of the prior art; or (c) that no more pertinent art than that listed is in existence. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g)]

Citation of any art herein is not to be construed as an admission: (a) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily within the invention field of

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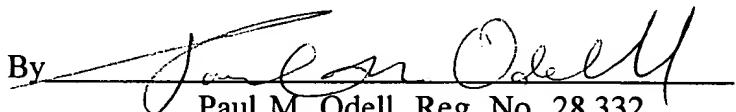
endeavor, pertinent to the instant invention, or equivalent to the instant invention; (b) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant in the instant patent application; (c) that the art disclosure is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b); and/or (d) that the art disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art with respect to the instant invention and application. [See 37 C.F.R. §1.97(g).]

No inference should be drawn that the discussion of any art herein is a discussion of each and every feature disclosed therein.

Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the instant invention is distinguished over the disclosures of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art cited herein, that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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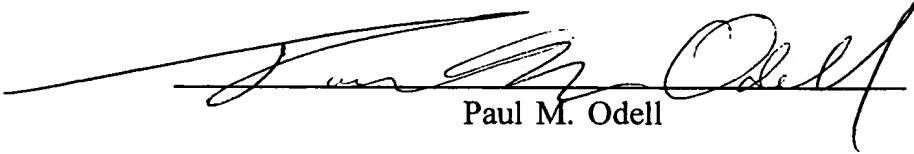
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 11, 2001.


Paul M. Odell

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